



FARM NEWS

March 4, 1949

MELTING SNOW WILL TEST CONSERVATION PRACTICES: "You may not have been aware of it but no doubt you have stood on the bridge or bank of a river and watched acre after acre of rich farmland go down the stream." The comment is by J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee, referring to the threatened floods when the heavy snows of the past several months begin to melt.

If the snow melts slowly and a lot of the moisture soaks into the ground, there is not so much danger, he said. But, if a sudden warm spell comes with rain, there may be trouble.

The chairman points out that conservation practices are doing a great deal to reduce flood hazards and the washing away of range and farmland. This spring should offer striking proof of the value of conservation practices in many parts of the country.

The direct assistance to farmers and ranchers under the Agricultural Conservation Program has resulted in a greatly increased protection to the soil from vegetative cover, says the chairman. On the range the program has provided assistance to improve the grass cover by keeping livestock off sections of the range to permit native grass to reseed and in actually planting the seed of adapted grasses. The construction of stock-water dams, springs, seeps, and wells also has improved the vegetative cover as a result of better distribution of livestock on the range.

The Agricultural Conservation Program also has encouraged pasture improvement, and has helped farmers provide sod waterways to protect land from excess runoff.

Good conservation practices have put the land in shape to hold more of the water back by permitting more of it to soak into the soil, and are helping to reduce the runoff and slow down the flow.

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY APPROVES CCC AMENDMENTS: Testifying recently on a Congressional bill to amend the Charter Act of the Commodity Credit Corporation, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan approved the following provisions of the amendatory legislation:

1. Removing the restrictions which hamper the Corporation's ability to provide adequate storage facilities by making it possible for the Corporation to acquire facilities, including items of personal or real property to be used in connection with the handling, storage, and servicing of agricultural commodities which it owns or otherwise controls.
2. Placing the general supervision and direction of CCC in the Secretary of Agriculture.
3. Authorizing the Secretary to appoint the members of the CCC Board of Directors, and authorizing a maximum of 11 members and a minimum of 7 (instead of the present 5).

4. Authorizing the Secretary to appoint the officials and employees of CCC and to define their authorization and duties.

ARRANGE FOR DIRT MOVING PRACTICES: Farmers of _____ county who are planning to carry out dirt moving practices under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program should make arrangements now for equipment, advises _____, chairman of the county Agricultural Conservation Association Committee.

Farmers who depend on contractors to carry out dirt moving practices for them may be unable to get the work done if arrangements are delayed too long. Early indication of the amount of work to be done will give contractors a chance to plan their work in an orderly manner.

The chairman explains that the reduction in funds for conservation under the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program meant less for dirt moving practices. This in turn has resulted in the turning of dirt moving equipment to other jobs and less equipment may be available for conservation practices in 1949. An early indication of how much dirt moving will be carried out under the 1949 program will give contractors an opportunity to provide additional equipment if needed.

Dirt moving practices under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program include such projects as construction of erosion-control and stock-water dams, digging drainage ditches, and construction of stock-water reservoirs.

Under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program cooperating farmers may obtain assistance in carrying out approved dirt moving conservation practices. This assistance amounts to about half the "out-of-pocket" cost of the practice.

To qualify for assistance the practices must have prior approval and must meet definite specifications and standards. Full information on these should be obtained from county or community Agricultural Conservation Program committees before definite arrangements are made to carry out the practices.

LIVESTOCK ON FARMS REPORTED: The number and value of the livestock on the farms of this country are given in a recent report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The total number of cattle, both beef and dairy animals, on hand on January 1, was 78,495,000 head. That is about the same as a year ago and over 2,000,000 more than the ten-year average from 1938 to 1947. The number of milk cows, however, was down. The 24,450,000 head in dairy herds was about 600,000 head fewer than a year ago and about 1,500,000 fewer than the ten-year average.

Hog numbers at 57,139,000 were up as compared with a year ago but were down more than 3,000,000 head from the ten-year average. Sheep numbers were down sharply. There were 31,963,000 head on farms on January 1 compared with 49,736,000 average in the period 1938-47. Horse numbers were down to 5,921,000 about 62 percent of the ten-year average. Mule numbers at 2,353,000 were about 65 percent of average. Chickens numbered 448,838,000...down from a year ago; and turkeys at 5,493,000 were up over a million from a year earlier.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.



March 11, 1949

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH APRIL 9: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has extended the closing date for filing applications for 1949 crop insurance to April 9, 1949 according to _____, Chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

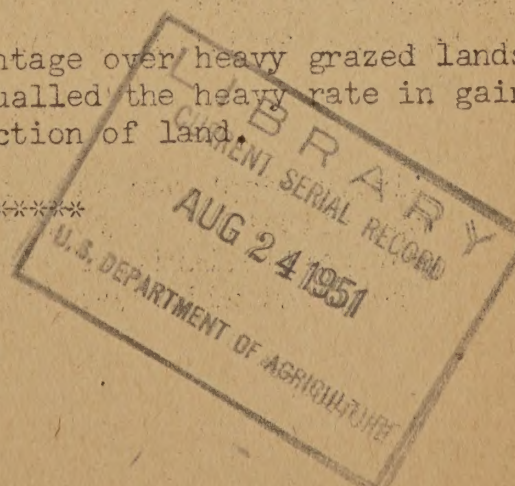
The closing date has been extended from March 15th through April 9 because of the severe road and weather conditions that have existed in the State. Mr. _____ advises that it is impossible to explain the Crop Insurance Program and take applications from a large volume of farmers in a short period of time, and requests that farmers avail themselves of the first opportunity to contact the County Committee or one of the designated agents selling crop insurance. This will allow more time in which to explain the program to each person, and will equalize the work load in the County Office. The designated agents selling crop insurance in _____ county are _____, _____, and _____.

BALANCING BEEF PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION: Conservation of soil and water means using these resources in such a way as to give the greatest return in continued food and fiber production. This is the objective of the Agricultural Conservation Program, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

Referring specifically to what the Agricultural Conservation Program means in the range and pasture country, the chairman points out that it assists ranchers and livestock producers to conserve soil and water on their land -- the foundation of conservation. Proper stocking is the key to range and pasture conservation. In support of this, he refers to experiments carried on at the Great Plains Experiment Station at Woodward, Oklahoma. Conservatively grazed range and pasture consistently resulted in greater gains per head than heavy grazed lands.

During the past winter (1947-48) moderately grazed pastures produced 47 percent more gain per head and 23 percent more gain per acre with 16 percent fewer cattle than on the overgrazed pastures.

The lightly grazed pastures showed to advantage over heavy grazed lands. They produced 60 percent more gain per head and equalled the heavy rate in gain per acre while using 18 fewer head of cattle per section of land.



ACP HELPS CONTROL FLOODS: The Agricultural Conservation Program, through assistance to farmers in carrying out conservation practices, is helping to provide a number of practical flood control measures, explains _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

He said there are two general kinds of conservation practices which are effective in helping control floods.

1. Practices which result in a greater amount of the water being soaked up by the soil on which it falls. Practices in this group are: Adding humus to the soil through plowing under green manure, crop residue management in which a high percentage of the stubble and straw of a crop are worked into the surface of the soil, the seeding of grasses and legumes, farming on the contour, terraces and spreader dams.

2. Conservation practices which slow the flow of the water running off and help prevent concentration of runoff in flood proportions. These practices include sod waterways, spreader dams, terraces, contour furrows, growing crops of legumes and grasses, forest tree planting, and similar measures.

Mr. _____ said that although the Agricultural Conservation Program usually is not considered a flood control program it is doing much to reduce and control floods on privately owned land. As more farmers cooperate in the program it will become even more effective in the control of floods.

1949 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM: Mr. _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Association reports that the county handbook of conservation practices for the 1949 program has been approved by the State Committee of the Production and Marketing Administration, and the sign-up of farm plans will start at an early date. The main practices included in the 1949 program are very similar to those used in 1948, and every farmer should now be thinking of the conservation needs on his farm, and the practices which should be carried out first, in order to conserve and improve the soil and water resources on his farm.

In addition to the practices which have been in effect from year to year under the programs, farmers can, in 1949, receive assistance for seeding perennial grasses and adapted legumes for the purposes of producing seed or hay. Most of the grass and legume seeds are in short supply, and producers who wish to use this practice should make plans early to secure the necessary seed. Copies of the 1949 handbook will be mailed to farmers in the very near future, and Mr. _____ urges immediate planning to see that the most urgent conservation needs are taken care of with funds that are available to the county under the 1949 program.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.



FARM NEWS

Reserve

1,956

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March 18, 1949

BEFORE THE FLOODS COME: When the snow begins to melt, the spillway for the irrigation, stock-water, or erosion control dam may be blocked with snow or ice. The outlet to the terrace may be plugged. As the reservoir or area back of the terrace fills up with water and slush, the surplus water may not be able to get through the spillway or the outlet.

This danger is stressed by _____ chairman of the county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

He urges that farmers with such structures lose no time in clearing spillways and outlets. A channel cut through the snow should get the water started and thereby protect the dams and terraces from being washed out.

He points out that dams and terraces constructed during the past few years under the Agricultural Conservation Program in counties and soil conservation districts will help retard the flow of water when the snow starts to melt. This will reduce the flood hazard. But if accumulations of water back of dams or terraces are allowed to break through, these structures may be a menace instead of a protection.

The chairman states that prompt action now will accomplish two purposes: first, it will be a safeguard against floods and second, it will protect the conservation structures and practices carried out under the Agricultural Conservation Program. Since these structures and practices are the result of cooperation between farmer and the public, there is a public as well as a farmer interest in their protection.

GRASS SEED KEY TO ABUNDANCE, SAYS McCORMACK: The need for nationwide understanding of what it takes to assure continued abundance of needed food is being stressed by Alvin V. McCormack at state meetings of Agricultural Conservation Program committeemen. Mr. McCormack is director of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

He points out that continued abundance is possible only if the productivity of the Nation's land is maintained. Farmers can maintain the land only if farm prices make conservation work possible. Ample supplies of legume and grass seed are essential if the land is to be conserved.

As Mr. McCormack explains it, when farmers adjust their crop acreage to meet changed demands, it "leaves them free to put more land into grass." If farmers fail to adjust, the "over-production leads to lower prices and instead of reducing production a farmer is often forced to increase it in order to maintain his income. He tries to make up for the drop in price by selling more bushels or more bales. That's why the price support program, with its provisions to keep production in line with demand, is very important to conservation."

And in order to do the conservation job, he points out, "It's going to take a lot of legume and grass seed to do it. We've been short of these seeds for a long time. In fact, we've never had enough to really take care of the planting we should have made."

In great part, Mr. McCormack believes, the success of the entire agricultural effort in the next few years — increased conservation made possible by price supports and certain crop adjustments — rests upon the production of enough grass and legume seed. State and county Agricultural Conservation Associations, he states, are now making a survey of the probable needs for the next ten years and plans are being worked out to insure the needed production.

HOG SUPPORTS EXTENDED THROUGH MARCH 1950: Farmers may now plan their hog production for next fall and winter with assurance of price protection, J. E. Kasper, chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, pointed out today. His statement was made in connection with the Department of Agriculture's recent announcement that the Government would support hog prices at 90 percent of parity through March 1950, the end of the marketing season for 1949 spring pigs.

This action was intended to remove any uncertainties which might prompt unusually large marketings of hogs before December 31, 1949. Hog price supports at 90 percent of parity are mandatory under legislation only through 1949, but support beyond this date is authorized under certain conditions.

In accordance with the Department's established policy of announcing support prices for a 6-month period twice a year, the schedule for April-September 1949 will be announced early this spring, based on March 15 parity. Support prices for the October 1948-March 1949 season ranged from \$17.50 per hundred pounds, Chicago basis, in October and March to a low of \$15.25 per hundred pounds in December.

The 1949 spring pig goal calls for a spring crop of 60 million pigs, 17 percent more than the 1948 spring crop. The December pig crop report indicated producers' intentions to farrow 14 percent more sows this spring than last,

MORE LAND INTO CONSERVATION USES: Now that the war and postwar demands for the production of a number of farm products are easing and the bins of the Ever-Normal Granary are beginning to fill, it is time for the farmers of _____ county to begin to think about the use of land that may be taken out of possible excess crops.

If more (wheat, cotton, corn, potatoes, etc.) are produced than the market will absorb at fair prices to farmers, it may become necessary — probably will become necessary — for farmers to shift the use of some of their land to other uses.

In stressing this point, Mr. _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, advises that in land use shifts the emphasis should be on uses that will conserve and build the soil for future production. With population increasing and the amount of land limited, the proper use of this land becomes increasingly important.

The Agricultural Conservation Program, says the chairman, provides a way in which the farmers and the rest of the people can cooperate in carrying out soil and water conservation practices on land taken out of the production of excess crops. It is the democratic means for seeing that a vital job is done.

Mr. _____ pointed out that the Agricultural Conservation Program provides assistance for seeding grasses and legumes — for pasture, hay or seed production. It provides assistance for the application of phosphate, which stimulates the growth of

these conserving crops. He urges that farmers making plans to reduce acreages of crops that are approaching the excess stage see the county committee or the local community committee about conservation practices for land taken out of excess crops.

As the chairman explains, "Now is the time to build for a better future instead of wasting soil resources, water, labor and operating expenses in the production of crops for which there is no ready market."

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March 25, 1949

ACREAGE ADJUSTMENT - CONSERVATION: Isn't adjusting crop production to market demands as much a part of conservation as building terraces and farming on the contour? asks _____, chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

He points out that soil fertility used in the production of a farm commodity for which there is no market wastes that fertility just as much as though it had been washed or blown away. Adjusting the acreages in such crops to a production in line with market demand is using the soil for the good of the people who depend on the soil - both the farmer and the consumer.

If the land taken out of production to get the desired balance is put into a conserving use both the farmer and consumer stand to gain. The farmer is improving his land for future production and the consumer is assured of reserves for future food production.

The chairman points out that to produce 100 bushels of corn 80 pounds of 20 percent nitrogen fertilizer, 458 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate, 251 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash, and 125 to 200 pounds of limestone are required. In addition small amounts of magnesium, iron, boron, zinc, copper and manganese are needed.

That means that in addition to the labor, use of machinery, moisture and seed, this much fertilizer is lost in every 100 bushels of corn produced in excess of what can be sold or used. The principle also holds for wheat and cotton and potatoes and other crops.

Therefore, the chairman contends that adjusting acreages of crops to fit market demands is as much a part of conservation as the physical conservation structures such as terraces and dams.

FLAXSEED LOANS MATURE APRIL 30: April 30 is the maturity date of loans on the 1948 crop of flaxseed, _____ (Name) _____, Chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee, has announced. It is also the final date for Government purchases of flaxseed from processors under contracts requiring that they pay producers not less than support prices.

No flaxseed has been bought by the Commodity Credit Corporation in the open market in recent months, since processors have been buying all flaxseed commercially at the price-support levels. The Department of Agriculture announced last August that all 1948-crop flaxseed offered at the support levels would be purchased by CCC in order to protect flax producers under the price supports provided by Congress. Purchases of the 1948 crop total around 22 million bushels.

Also effective April 30, purchases of 1948-crop flaxseed as a price-support operation will be discontinued by CCC.

FLOOD CONTROL BEGINS AT THE BEGINNING: Every bunch of grass, every dam, every terrace, every contoured furrow and every other conservation measure that checks runoff and slows down the flow of excess water is helping that much to control floods. The statement is made by _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

He adds that these conservation measures are not the whole answer to the flood control problem, just as dams and dikes down the river are not the whole answer.

Floods are but accumulations of water that have gone out of control, he explains, and every bit of this water that can be held back helps just that much in reducing the damage.

He points out that numerous experiments and the experience of many farmers show the value of vegetative cover in reducing the amount of water than runs off the land during periods of heavy rains and melting snows. Where there is a good vegetative cover, more of the moisture soaks into the soil where it serves as a reservoir for later use by plants. The runoff is spread over a longer period, flood crests are kept down, and less damage is done.

Terraces, contour farming, and dams are obstructions to the runoff and help hold the water back. Thus erosion is reduced and there is less silting of dams in the flood control system down the river.

Both the conservation on the land and the dams and dikes down the river are needed. Together they help solve a major national problem.

GRAIN LOANS, PURCHASE AGREEMENTS REPORTED: The U. S. Department of Agriculture's latest report on grain under loans and purchase agreements shows:

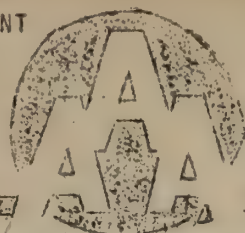
***Total grains -- wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye, and grain sorghums, 613,614,642 bushels; 459 million under loan and 154 million under purchase agreements. Wheat accounts for more than half the grains under price-support programs.

***Dry edible beans, 7,167,389 hundredweight; 3.5 million under loan and 3.6 under purchase agreements.

***Dry edible peas, 449,139 hundredweight; 1,241 under loan, and 447,898 under purchase agreements.

The closing date for loans and purchase agreements on wheat, oats, barley, rye and dry edible peas was December 31, 1948, and on grain sorghums and dry edible beans, February 28, 1949. The closing date for loans and purchase agreements on corn is June 30, 1949.

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FARM NEWS

April 1, 1949

1949 FLAXSEED SUPPORT \$3.99 A BUSHEL AT MINNEAPOLIS: J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the North Dakota Production

and Marketing Administration announces a price support program of \$3.99 a bushel, Minneapolis basis, for No. 1 1949-crop flaxseed, to reflect 90 percent of the farm parity price as of April 1, 1949. Support for the 1948 crop was \$6 a bushel, Minneapolis basis. The average 1949 North Dakota support rate will be approximately \$3.65 per bushel. The support price for No. 2 flaxseed will be 5 cents per bushel less than the support price for No. 1. No support price will be available for flaxseed which does not grade U.S. No. 1 or 2. In determining county support prices, the actual cost of freight and handling charges will be deducted from the applicable terminal price.

Prices will be supported by means of (1) farm stored and warehouse loans to producers and (2) purchase agreements to producers.

Mr. Kasper emphasized that last year's price support was at a high level to induce a production large enough to take care of domestic requirements. Both acreage and production were increased, and the crop was a record 52,533,000 bushels. Since a large part of the 1948 production will be available in addition to the 1949 crop, a suggested National goal of 3,026,000 planted acres, to produce 26,700,000 bushels of flaxseed in 1949 has been recommended to the Nation's farmers. This would be about one-third less than the actual planted acreage in 1948, but 30 percent above the prewar 1937-41 acreage.

DR. KELLOGG SPEAKS ON FARM PROGRAM: We must think of the conservation problem of the whole farm - not just single practices - in planning a conservation program, Dr. Charles E. Kellogg, Chief, Division of Soil Survey, Agricultural Research Administration, told the elected farmer-committeemen at the Tennessee State PMA Conference held at Chattanooga, March 24 and 25.

The Agricultural Conservation Program should with few exceptions support combinations of practices to assure the benefits of interactions among the practices, he explained. "If we apply our modern techniques in the proper pattern -- all practices that are needed and all together - a lot of marginal cropland would be made into productive pastures and meadows," he said.

To achieve sustained production, four goals must be given equal emphasis, he explained: (1) production for the family and the community, (2) conservation of soil and water, (3) good living standards for health and education, and (4) full use of the labor and genius on the farm. Neglect of any one will prevent progress in the others.

He suggested the possibility of making conservation incentive payments on the basis of a plan of readjustment for the whole farm. "This is especially critical on small farms where resources are limited and where the optimum system of farming for good production and conservation is drastically different from the system used now.

-2-

He pointed out that soil deterioration is needlessly taking place on many soils but that erosion is only one of the factors, no more important in many cases than declining fertility, exhaustion of organic matter, and loss of soil structure.

He explained that by proper measures many soils are being improved and are better now than they were in the beginning. He added, however, "I suspect that the fertility and structure of our soils in the United States as a whole are not quite so good today as they were a few years ago, but no figures are available. At any rate, we do know that we are not farming nearly as well as we could. At the same time, I am convinced that we are facing no catastrophe because of declining soil productivity...one of the important reasons for this is the extent to which, in my judgment, farmers have learned better practices through the ACP program.

"Important as they are, I am not so much concerned with the direct effects of the soil, as I am with the effects it has had in teaching farm managers better husbandry. After all, in a democracy our aim should be to help farmers develop their own ability to make better decisions."

PRICE SUPPORTS SET FOR OATS, BARLEY, RYE: Government price supports on 1949-crops will reflect average rates equal to 70 percent of the April 15 parity price for oats and 72 percent for barley and rye, according to a recent announcement by the Department of Agriculture. The percentage rates are the same as last year's for oats and rye but 3 percent less for barley. The barley rate is lower to permit better competition with other feed grains in the domestic market. Dollars-and-cents rates will be announced later.

Loans and purchase agreements on the three grains will be available from time of harvest through January 31, 1950, a month longer than for the 1948 crops. Eligible oats must grade U.S. No. 3 or better; barley, No. 5 or better, except that Class III Western Barley having a test weight of less than 40 pounds per bushel will not be eligible; and rye, No. 2 or better or No. 3 solely on test weight.

Farmers made wide use of both loans and purchase agreements in 1948 to help stabilize prices around support levels. Loans last year totaled nearly 15 million bushels of oats, 31 million bushels of barley, and 751,000 bushels of rye. Purchase agreements covered 9 million bushels of oats, 18 million bushels of barley, and 667,000 bushels of rye.

Loans require specified practices in farm and warehouse storage to protect the collateral. Purchase agreements carry no requirements other than that grain offered to the Commodity Credit Corporation toward the end of the price-support period must be of specified quality. Farmers may sell grain covered by purchase agreements to anyone at any time without prior release by CCC.

SPRING SIGN-UPS DOUBLY IMPORTANT: Mr. _____, Chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee states that it is of double importance to farmers in _____ county to contact the County Office before May 1 if they have not yet signed their 1949 farm worksheets under the Agricultural Conservation Program. May 1 is an important date because it is the closing date for signing farm worksheets to establish eligibility for participation in the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program. At the same time that farm worksheets are being accepted, information is being obtained from producers relative to past crop acreages. This information is to be used in planning future programs, and it is very possible that it will be used in the establishment of wheat acreage allotments in 1950. Any producer who has not previously signed a farm worksheet for 1949 and furnished information relative to crop history should be sure to attend the applicable meeting of the following schedule or to contact the County office by not later than May 1, 1949. The meeting schedule is as follows:

(ADAPT FOR COUNTY USE)



April 8, 1949

'49 WHEAT SUPPORTS TO BE AT 90%: Government support prices for the 1949 crop of wheat will be at 90 percent of parity, as required by law, J. E. Kasper, chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, said today.

In general, the 1949 wheat support program will be similar to those of the past 2 years, Mr. Kasper explained, except that the supports will be available a month longer - from time of harvest through January 31, 1950. Methods of support will include (1) farm- and warehouse-storage loans, (2) purchase agreements, and (3) direct purchases of wheat in Georgia and South Carolina, where wheat cannot be stored safely for extended periods.

Eligible wheat will be wheat produced in the continental U.S. in 1949, grading U.S. No. 3 or better, or grading U.S. No. 4 or No. 5 solely on the factor of test weight.

Mr. Kasper pointed out that the price-support program looks out for the interests of consumers as well as of producers, since it is designed to provide adequate supplies of wheat and to establish a farm floor price. Loans will make funds immediately available to producers who place wheat in storage for marketing later; purchase agreements assure producers who are not in need of immediate cash that they may sell their wheat at the price-support level at a later date.

Wheat price-support programs have been operated by the Department of Agriculture for the past 11 years and have covered, through loans and purchase agreements, a total of more than 2 billion bushels of wheat. The highest amount of wheat ever placed under loan was around 408 million bushels in 1942. In 1948, approximately 251 million bushels of wheat were placed under loan and 113 million bushels under purchase agreements, a total of 364 million bushels.

ALL ONE PROGRAM: "Price supports, production adjustments, when they are needed, and conservation are all part of one program," said Alvin V. McCormack, Director of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, at recent meetings of committeemen. "One of the greatest values of the farm program is its flexibility - it can be used to help farmers make needed adjustments to fit the requirements of the country for farm products. We have just been through a period of upward adjustments. Farmers shifted during the war to crops badly needed - now it may be necessary to shift some of the land from these crops to other uses."

Price supports are helping farmers to make these shifts, but Mr. McCormack pointed out that prices should only be supported for the quantities of farm products actually needed. Price supports without production adjustments to fit demand could result in burdensome surpluses.

Acreage allotments and marketing quotas, when needed, can be used by farmers to keep from producing more than is required.

Many people believe that when acreage allotments are used farmers should plant within all of them to be eligible for price support. For a farmer to shift from one

crop to another which is in plentiful supply, could result in over-production which would hurt the other farmers who usually grow that crop, build up surpluses and cost the Government too much money for price support.

This leads to the thought that the land not used for the allotment crops should in the interest of both farmers and the Nation, be put into the production of crops in short supply and especially to conserving uses. Grass and hay which will help build up our depleted livestock numbers, as well as take care of the land are the best things for farmers to turn to. Much land not needed for crops should be in permanent cover or trees.

In closing, Mr. McCormack stressed the relation of conservation to the adjustment programs and pointed out the opportunity farmers now have to build up their soil, and at the same time more nearly produce in line with consumer needs.

PRICE SUPPORTS AND THE CONSUMER: Farm price supports benefit consumers as well as farmers says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee. He lists three essential points to support his contention.

Price supports generally are not over 90 percent of parity - 10 percent below an "even break."

With the assurance of price supports a farmer can continue to produce abundantly. And abundance, not scarcity, tends to keep prices from going too high.

The protection of price supports make possible a soil and water conservation program that helps to guard against erosion, depletion and waste of soil and water, assuring sustained production.

The concentration of population in cities is possible only as farmers are able to produce food in excess of their own needs and the needs of their families, he explains. Conservation helps make possible the continued production of food in excess of the farmer's own needs.

Extremely low prices first stimulate increased production as farmers struggle to meet fixed costs, but this continues, he points out, only until the farmer goes broke. Then the consumer in the city loses both the production of the farm and the farmer as a purchaser of the goods which city people have to sell.

On the not infrequent tendency to blame farmers for high consumer prices, the chairman points out that this is often an easy method of answering a complicated question. Actually, he explains, if a farmer gave away his wheat, a 16-cent loaf of bread still would cost the consumer 14 cents.

AN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM FOR CITY PEOPLE: The person who should be most concerned about soil and water conservation is the city dweller - the welder on the construction job or the clerk in the department store - because it means more to him, says J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

Cities survive on what farmers can produce beyond their own needs and the needs of their families. On the basis of the average amount of food consumed per person in this country, New York alone would require approximately 1,000 cars of food a day.

When this is multiplied by the needs for Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Boston, New Orleans and all the other big cities to say nothing of the smaller cities and towns, the importance of conservation to the city dweller begins to stand out.

It is continued abundant production made possible by conservation that keeps these cities alive. If it were just the farmer and his family, erosion could continue its destruction of soil for a long time and production could go down to a very low point before he and his family would starve.

Since most of the people live in cities and towns, most of the food goes to feed these people. The excess food - excess over the farmers' needs -- keeps the city provided.

Therefore, Mr. Kasper said, conservation is of even more vital concern to city dwellers than to the farmers.

Conservation assistance and price supports which make possible abundant production - and sustained abundant production - the chairman points out, are among the surest means the city man has of protecting his source of food.

Food, the chairman emphasizes, isn't produced in grocery stores. It is produced on the land, from the topsoil of our farms, by people who are called farmers. And keeping these farms productive and the farmers on them farming is the best way to make sure there will be enough food to keep our cities going and growing.

SPRING WHEAT MOISTURE PLENTIFUL: The prospects for the spring wheat crop are good, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The expected acreage is a little more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ percent above that of last year. The crop will be planted generally under conditions that have reasonable promise of producing a good crop.

The reports of the Weather Bureau show that in all of the spring-wheat Plains States the amount of moisture which has fallen so far this winter has been more than normal, the amount above normal varying from 7 percent in Montana to 72 percent in Nebraska.

It has been found that when the soil is moist at least a foot deep that a crop of around $6\frac{1}{2}$ bushels can be expected; if it is moist for a depth of 2 feet a crop of about 12 bushels to the acre will be produced; but if it is moist to a depth of 3 feet or more a crop of from 15 to 20 bushels to the acre will be produced.

Limited reports indicate that the ground is thawing out and the snow and ice melting slowly with prospects that much water is soaking into the soil.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.



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April 15, 1949

BALANCED PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION: That it may be necessary for the Secretary of Agriculture to proclaim acreage allotments and submit marketing quota referendums to the vote of farmers on a number of major crops next year is an indication that our food production capacity is being maintained, says J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

Instead of the population outrunning the ability of the land to produce, farmers still have an opportunity to shift some of their land to uses that will build the soil for future production.

There is no conflict, the chairman points out, between supporting prices, setting allotments which call for a reduction in acreages, and also assisting farmers to carry out conservation measures. These are all elements of a necessary and desirable national program.

The primary objective is to make sure there is enough to eat -- and wear -- now and in the future. To do this it has been found necessary to protect the farmer from ruinous prices as well as to protect the land from wasteful farming.

With nearly 6 million farms and all the hazards of weather, disease, insects on the one hand and the introduction of improved varieties and better farming methods on the other, it is necessary to make national adjustments in production from time to time. Such adjustment is the only way to prevent waste of national soil resources in producing unneeded surplus crops.

To make sure there is enough - now and in the future - the soil must be protected from erosion and deterioration. This can be done only if the farmer is protected from the bankruptcy which in the past has resulted from over-abundant production and no price protection.

With bins filling up and production on a number of crops moving out ahead of consumer needs, the farmers of this country have a golden opportunity to catch up on needed conservation on the land that is taken out of surplus crops, the chairman points out. This will be good for the farm and the farmer but it will be even better for the consumer and the Nation as a whole. An effective national effort to put this land to some conservation use will increase the Nation's potential food strength.

HOG SUPPORTS ANNOUNCED THROUGH SEPTEMBER: Government support prices on hogs for the next 6 months will range from a weekly average of \$16.25 per 100 pounds, Chicago basis, in May - when marketings of hogs are seasonally the largest of the spring or summer, to a high of \$18.50 per 100 pounds in September - when marketings are seasonally the smallest of the year.

In calling attention to the schedule of hog support prices, J. E. Kasper, Chairman

of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee, said that these are average support prices at Chicago, based on 90 percent of the March 15 parity price of \$17.90 per 100 pounds. Price differentials are provided for other markets.

Prices received by farmers for hogs are currently above parity. If support should be needed later in the year, however, purchases of pork products or other appropriate support action will be used to carry out the program.

Officials point out that the support prices are for all weights of Good and Choice barrow and gilt butcher hogs, and that the program does not mean that Government action would be taken to prevent prices of heavy butcher hogs from falling below the average support prices announced at this time. The supports apply to prices paid by Federally inspected slaughterers.

Farmers have been assured that hog prices will be supported at 90 percent of parity through March 1950.

FARMERS URGED TO CUT FLAXSEED ACREAGE: Farmers who intend to plant flax for seed this spring are urged by (full name) of the (County) Agricultural Conservation Committee to reduce their flax acres by one-third as suggested by the 1949 flax production goal. This recommendation was made because of the ample U.S. and world supply of flaxseed and linseed oil.

Under the recently announced price support program, 1949-crop flaxseed will be supported at \$3.99 a bushel, Minneapolis basis. This price, representing 90 percent of parity as of April, compares with \$6 a bushel for 1948-crop flaxseed.

In urging producers to cut production in 1949, Mr. _____ said that USDA suggested goal of 3,026,000 planted acres for 1949 would produce about 26,700,000 bushels of flaxseed. This quantity, he said, together with the anticipated carryover, would be ample to provide for all domestic requirements.

Mr. _____ pointed out that the flaxseed situation this year will be in direct contrast to the situation a year ago. In 1948, he said, the support price was set at a high level to encourage the production of enough flaxseed to meet domestic needs and a record crop of 52,533,000 bushels resulted. Because substantial quantities of this record supply remain to be marketed this year, he emphasized that it will be unnecessary to produce more than the 26,700,000 bushels called for in the national goal.

The carryover of 1948 crop flaxseed will amount to at least 15 million bushels, according to recent estimates, and, in addition, the Commodity Credit Corporation has on hand about 200,000,000 pounds of linseed oil from its 1948 price support operations.

Export surpluses of flaxseed are in prospect from several countries, including Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay, and India. Without import controls on fats and oils and oil-bearing seeds, substantial imports of flaxseed or linseed oil may be expected from other countries.

Mr. _____ also pointed out that processor contracts will not be used under the 1949 price support program. This, he said, is significant since it means that farmers must find suitable storage space for their flaxseed in order to participate

in the 1949 program. As a result, production of flaxseed beyond the suggested national level will add materially to the grain storage problems that farmers already face.

Prices for the 1949 crop will be supported through: (1) producer loans, (2) producer purchase agreements, and (3) purchases only from producers in 32 designated Texas counties.

ROOTS OF GRASS IMPORTANT: The importance of the roots of grass crops in conservation often is not appreciated, in the opinion of J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee. Since roots are below ground it is not apparent how completely they occupy the soil.

To check up on this, scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture have washed out the roots of a number of mixed crops. When sweet clover was grown alone it produced 1900 pounds of roots to the acre. When grass was grown with the sweet clover, 3000 pounds of roots were produced to the acre. Alfalfa alone produced 2300 pounds of roots to the acre. When grass was sown with the alfalfa, the roots amounted to 5000 pounds to the acre and in some cases up to 9000 pounds.

It is these unseen characteristics of grass which make it such a valuable conservation crop, the chairman points out. The roots fill the soil and hold the particles together. When the grass is turned under, it is these roots which make the soil work easier. As the roots decay they make the native fertility of the soil available and add to the sponge-like ability of the soil to absorb water. It is for this reason, the chairman explains, that grass is such an important conservation crop.

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April 22, 1949

ARE FARMERS GETTING RICH? Although almost everyone knows of farmers who have "made money" during the past 8 or 10 years, most farmers have not been "doing as well" as the people in town or city.

_____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, backs up this statement with the fact that the average net income of farm people in 1948 from all sources was only \$909 per capita, including the value of home-produced food and income from non-farm sources. This compares with the non-farm average of \$1,569.

Mr. _____ said that consumers are often misled by the prices they have to pay for groceries and other commodities produced on the farm, or made from raw materials produced on the farm. Too often, they are not aware of the prices actually received by farmers.

According to Mr. _____, figures show that for the wool in a \$50 suit, the farmer received about \$5.70; for \$10 worth of meat, the farmer received about \$5.10; for the tobacco in a 20 cent pack of cigarettes, the farmer received about 2-2/5 cents; for the wheat in a 14 1/2 cent loaf of bread, the farmer received about 3 cents. And if the farmer had given away the hide for a \$10 pair of shoes, they would still cost \$8.63.

Too often, Mr. _____, said, this spread between what the farmer gets and what the consumer pays and the difference between farm and non-farm incomes are overlooked when farm programs and price-support measures are being discussed.

PMA CHAIRMAN ADVISES SEED CHECK: Farmers are urged to take a good look at any alfalfa or red clover seed they buy this spring and see if any of the seed is stained orange, red or violet, by J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee. If the seed is stained, he urges farmers to be sure it is adapted to their part of the country.

The law requires, he explains, that seed imported into this country from South America shall be stained 10 percent orange; seed imported from any other country except Canada shall be stained 10 percent red; and seed imported from Canada shall be stained 1 percent violet.

Alfalfa and red clover seed from some of the South American countries is adapted to certain sections of this country but not to others. This is also true of some alfalfa or red clover seeds that are imported from Europe. Likewise it is true of these seeds grown in Canada. It is important that farmers know what country the alfalfa or red clover seed came from so that they can be sure that it is adapted to their sections.

TOTAL CROP ALLOTMENTS SUGGESTED: Now that acreage allotments and marketing quotas seem likely on a number of major crops in 1950, the problem is one of keeping acreages taken out of allotment crops from piling up surpluses of other farm commodities.

According to _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, this is one of the big problems - if not the biggest - facing farmers of this country today. As surpluses of one crop pile up there will be a tendency - if past experiences can be used as a guide - to shift production to other cash crops. This, in one year, may mean surpluses and ruinous prices for these commodities.

Mr. _____ said that it has been suggested that there be a total allotment on the farm to cover all these crops. This would mean that in addition to the allotments on individual crops there would be a total farm allotment that would cover all cash crops, or crops that may cause marketing troubles. To be eligible for price supports, the farmer would have to be within this total allotment as well as all the allotments for individual crops.

On a farm where a farmer may have a normal acreage of 60 acres of wheat, 30 acres of corn, and 10 acres of potatoes, he may have individual crop allotments of 50 acres of wheat, 25 acres of corn, and 5 acres of potatoes. But he may have 20 acres in other cash crops, which if increased, would help to build up surpluses.

The idea suggested would be to set up an over-all allotment as well as allotments for individual cash crops. He would have to be within the individual crop allotment and the total allotment to be eligible for price supports on any crop.

The suggested proposal would help farmers to work together instead of against each other, the chairman said. And as to what to do with the land taken out of these cash crops, he suggested that there is room for expansion of grass and legume crops both to increase livestock production and to conserve the soil.

FFA CONSERVATION CONTEST: Students of Vocational Agriculture who expect to participate in the national "Soil and Water Management" contest are invited to visit the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Association office and to talk with county and community committeemen.

_____, chairman of the county committee, says that some of the information - possibly most of it - needed to compete in the contest is available at the county office. Of course, the rules of the contest and similar information are being distributed through the State and county school systems.

But the county committee is cooperating with the county schools and particularly with the Vocational Agriculture instructors and officers of the local chapters of the Future Farmers of America in assisting students in the contest.

Much of the soil and water management requirements are in line with the practices provided farmers of the county under the Agricultural Conservation Program. The National Outline of ACP practices is being used as a guide.

Mr. _____ said that committeemen and employees at the county office will be glad to assist students with information on conservation practices which have been approved for _____ county and with specifications which are required for ACP assistance.

The contest is open to all students of Vocational Agriculture and \$100 has been set up for the State winner of the contest. The State winner may then compete in a national contest for additional prizes.



April 29, 1949

DON'T FORGET THE WIND: Are you preparing your land to blow away? asks J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

The chairman says that there are many indications that farmers have forgotten the "dust bowls" and what can happen to soil when the humus and clods are all worked out of it. Good crops and high prices have led many farmers to take daring chances with the topsoil of millions of acres.

The farmers of North Dakota are aware of the danger that comes from plowing up too much sod and cropping the land year after year without a return to a crop that will build up the humus. The wheat land taken out of brush and grass for a year or two is held together by the roots and vegetation that has been plowed under. But year after year of cropping, especially if the straw is burned, leaves the soil broken up into fine particles.

As long as the soil is protected by a growing crop it may be reasonably safe but after it is plowed or worked down with harrows or weeders, it becomes a "blow hazard" which threatens not only the land in this condition but adjoining land as well.

Mr. Kasper points out that the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program provides assistance to farmers for practices which protect the land against blowing.

Practices designed to give effective protection against wind erosion include: Field strip cropping, working crop residues into the surface layer of the soil, instead of turning them under, subsoiling to bring up clods that will hold the soil, establishing a perennial vegetative cover such as crested wheatgrass, clover, or alfalfa, and protecting the land with a surface mulch.

Mr. Kasper warned that dry weather and winds may come any time and that the best way to avoid that "gone with the wind" regret is to keep the land protected with conservation practices which tie down the soil.

U. S. EXPORT PICTURE CHANGES: Income from U.S. agricultural exports during each of the past two fiscal years has averaged about \$600 per farm, according to an article in a recent issue of Foreign Agriculture of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In both 1946-47 and 1947-48, agricultural exports totaled about 3.5 billion dollars -- five times the prewar average of 1936-40. About half of this increased value is the result of higher prices, and half of larger volume. Actual volume of farm exports is about double that of prewar but only about equal to that after World War I.

Shifts in the kinds of agricultural exports, however, are significant. Cotton, tobacco, and fruits have declined in importance, and grain, dairy products, and eggs have increased. While grain and flour formerly accounted for only 15 percent of our

export total, last year they made up 49 percent. The U. S. is now exporting about as much wheat and flour as it uses for food within the country. Of every 100 bushels of wheat produced, 37 are now being exported.

A large part of the present exports are made possible only through U. S. credit to European countries and therefore does not represent normal foreign trade, the article points out. When the U. S. stops extending credit, Europe will be able to buy only to the extent that it can earn purchasing power. In the last analysis, therefore, the U. S. future export market will depend primarily on whether we are willing to import. In the last fiscal year, the total value of imports was 1.4 billion dollars, averaging \$240 per farm.

Over the years, about half of the U. S. agricultural imports have been of the complementary type -- tropical products such as coffee, tea, cocoa, bananas, pineapples, rubber, silk, and spices, not produced in this country. The other half have been supplementary -- products produced here but not in sufficient quantities to meet domestic needs. Most important in this group are sugar, hides, and skins, wool, vegetable oils, oriental tobacco, winter vegetables, long staple cotton, and such dried fruit as figs and dates.

The quantity of complementary imports has remained fairly constant from year to year except during the war when shipping space was not available. The volume now is about equal to prewar. The quantity of supplementary imports has fluctuated more widely, varying with U. S. purchasing power or prosperity and with the volume of U. S. agricultural production. During the past 2 years, these imports also have been at about the same level as before the war.

Since World War I, U. S. agricultural exports have declined rapidly in proportion to total exports, but increased industrial production and population -- from 92 million to about 148 million -- have resulted in a greatly increased domestic market for farm products.

If ways are not found to increase U. S. foreign trade, however -- both imports and exports -- a shift in production would have to relieve trouble spots of those products that rely heavily on the export market. Shifts would have to be made to more so-called protective foods and livestock production, meat, dairy, and poultry products.

A recent survey indicates that most Western European countries need more raw cotton to meet their consumption requirements. Supplies are said to be inadequate in all the countries surveyed except Belgium and Switzerland. To the full extent that dollar exchange is made available, U. S. cotton is being given import preference; American-type cotton is particularly in demand by European mills.

Consumption of raw cotton during the 1948-49 crop year in countries taking part in the European Recovery Program and in Spain is expected to total about 6.6 million bales, compared with 6.2 million the previous year and 7.2 million for 1938-39. If raw cotton supplies were adequate, consumption during 1948-49 would equal or exceed that for 1938-39.

SEEDING FOR SECURITY: As land is taken out of wheat, corn, cotton, and other surplus crops, it should be seeded to security crops -- crops that will hold the soil and build reserves for future production -- according to _____, chairman of the _____ Agricultural Conservation Committee.

With the rest of the country cooperating with the farmer by providing a program to support prices on his crops, the chairman points out that "the farmer has an obligation to the country to protect and conserve the land taken out of surplus production.

"It has been estimated that more than 20 million acres may have to be diverted from the so-called 'cash crops' in the years immediately ahead. Nearly all of this should be seeded to such soil conserving crops as grass and alfalfa and clover. But, of course, the problem there will be one of having enough seed."

Mr. _____ said it is not too early for all farmers to make plans for increasing the harvest of grass and legume seed this year. Certainly they will be needed next year -- and the years ahead -- not only for normal seeding but for the increased seeding of the acres diverted from cash crops.

He points out that it is just good business and good sense to avoid using up soil fertility, labor, and machinery in turning out crops for which there is no market -- or at prices so low that farmers go broke.

To shift the use of land from one cash crop to another merely results in additional surpluses. The markets for the regular growers would be ruined and the new growers would gain little if anything. To meet this problem it may be necessary to establish acreage allotments for several of the major crops.

The present farm program, the chairman explains, is essentially a means to balance production and to add to the national food security by seeding the land taken out of surplus crops to soil conserving grasses and legumes.

CRESTED WHEATGRASS SEED NEEDED: Plan now to harvest crested wheatgrass, farmers of _____ county were advised today by _____, chairman of the county Agricultural Conservation Committee. He said that with the need for a grass to protect much of the land that may have to be taken out of wheat production next year, there will be a need for all the crested wheatgrass seed that can be produced this year.

Crested wheatgrass is proving one of the most valuable grasses for reseeding spring and fall ranges of the Intermountain area. Already millions of acres of denuded lands have been protected and restored to use through seeding to crested wheatgrass.

It has been seeded extensively on the Northern Great Plains. Especially is it adapted to sagebrush land and marginal or submarginal land. United States Department of Agriculture specialists say that it is probable that more acres of rangeland have been successfully regrassed with crested wheatgrass than with all other species combined.

Characteristics of crested wheatgrass which farmers must be aware of, says the chairman, are slow development of seedlings except in the most favorable conditions, lack of aggressiveness in the seedling stage in competition with cheatgrass, slowing up of growth during the warm part of the year even though moisture is abundant, and reduced palatability at maturity.

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